

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, December 5. 1710.

WHEN I am talking of *High Fly-*
ers, and describing them by their
Scandalous abhor'd Practices,
such as taking the Oaths to the Queen, ab-
juring the Pretender, and the like; while
they at the same time, profess to Acknow-
ledge that Pretender they Abjure: When,
I say, I am exposing this Contemptible Ge-
neration, I cannot but wonder at the Im-
pudence of our Modern Censurers, who pre-
tend to say, *I suggest*, that such may be in
our approaching Parliament, or present
New Managers of Publick Affairs, a Thing
at the same time they would be glad were
true, and of which I say, and all good

Men will, I believe, join with me in it,
God forbid.

As for me, I know they would be glad
to get me into that Snare—— I am indeed
a plain Dealer, and I am not afraid to speak
bold Truth to the greatest Body of Men in
the World; but it is inconsistent with my
Notion of Things, to go this length, having
already said, *and continuing to be of that*
Mind, that let the Gentlemen be what they
will before, let their Inclinations be what
they will, yet when they come to A&T, in
their Parliamentary Capacity, and Privy
Counsellor-Capacity, they *will* and *must*
A&T upon the Foundation, and *within the*
Circles

Circle of the Constitution, and this I call being *Whigs*; but because these People shall not fail altogether of their desire to have me speak plainly — I shall do it — Nor do I fear giving Offence — I look upon all these double-Fac'd Politicians, to be so fatal to the present Constitution, and so fatal to the Queen and her Interest, that I cannot but say, if there are any such return'd in Parliament, if any such are found in the Ministry of State—I pray God they may be detected, and expell'd, for they are the only Men that can destroy us.

Is it possible these Hypocrites can be safe to the Government that trust them? Can the Wolf keep the Sheep? Can the French Tyrant guard our Liberty? Can Popery be a Support to the Church? Tyranny Maintain the Laws; and the Pretender keep our Queen upon the Throne? — Neither can Abjuring Jacobites protect the Revolution.

No, no, Gentlemen, this cannot be — Let us not be dismay'd, and amus'd, with the Notions now spread Abroad, perhaps Elections have not gone on to our Minds — But neither will this Parliament proceed so to the Minds of some, who boast of their Influence in Choosing them, carry on the Interest they expect, or Worship the Idol Pretender whom they have set up; a British Parliament cannot be suppos'd to do such Things as these.

Let us Examin then our Fears a little, that we may not load our selves with Apprehensions — Will any Man be so Mad as to make you believe the approaching Parliament will Vote in the Pretender, annul the Succession, Invade the Union? I know there are some so weak — Be not uneasie at those Things, they may do some Things we would rather they would not, but speaking with all possible Respect, they cannot do this, I had almost said dare not — Nor, in my Opinion, would it be any Affront or Indignity to that Great Assembly, to say, they dare not do Things Inconsistent with the Safety and Honour of

their Country, the Trust repos'd in them by their Freeholders, and the Establish'd Constitution, which it is their known Duty to Support and Defend — A Man of true Courage is afraid to do ill; Bravery consists as much in not daring to do a Dishonourable Action, as in daring to defend a just One; and in this Sense the House may be said not to dare to do this, They will be too Honest for that kind of Courage.

It is true, there is nothing absurd, but a Generation now among us, will take it in as Truth, and run away with as fit to be believ'd and reported: Nor indeed was ever a Cause Supported and carried on with such a Mass, such a crude indigested Lump of Inconsistencies and Forgeries, as this High Flying Cause now is, all which they find necessary to carry on the Double-Fac'd Cause of Jacobism and Tyranny: Hence it comes to pass, that in their bloated Hopes, they tell us, sometimes This Party shall restore the Pretender, sometimes That — This time he shall Land in England, This time in Scotland — Sometimes the Parliament shall Vote him in, Then the *Dissenters* are in a Plot to bring him in — And in many Places in the North, have gone beyond all this, and have not stuck confidently to spread a Report among the poor People, that the Queen herself, shall be pleas'd to send for him in, and reign to him — Ridiculous Extravagance! What may not this Generation be brought to? If these Things however Ridiculous, were not very common in the Mouths of the Party, in their Publick Discourse, I should not suffer them to be nam'd in the World, nor do I do it now, with any other Design, than if possible, to make them more Ridiculous — Will any Man doubt, but now is the Time, to have our People brought to believe Transubstantiation? Are not they that can drink in these Follies, made fit to believe any Thing?

But I shall wave them all, to speak particularly to that of a British Parliament calling in the Pretender: And this I pretend, is not only improbable, but Impracticable, I had almost said impossible; That the *Dissenters* should bring in the Pretender, is a Thing just as probable, as that they set their own

Heuse

Houses on Fire, in the great Fire of London, or pull'd down their own Meeting-Houses in the late Rumble — That her Majesty should Abdicate to the Pretender, is a sorrid senseless piece of Fiction that has nothing at all in it, not so much as a Jest to be laugh'd at, or so much a Tale as to be Remark — The Story does not tell well, it bears no Connection with the Nature of Things, the whole Series of her Majesty's Life, is a particular Conduct of her Majesty, before, at, and after the Revolution — That the Queen who acquiesc'd in the Laws that laid down her Father, should resign to the Son — And such a Son! — Doubtful in his Legitimacy, Popish in his Principle, French in his Education, and very indifferent in his Character — But above all, one who if Spurious, was foisted in on purpose to Dethrone and Anticipate her Majesty's Title, and has insolently invaded her Dominions, to Depose and Dethrone her — To suggest this of her Majesty, is to suppose her what is inconsistent with the Christian, as well as with the Queen, and make her Majesty *Felo de se* to her own Glory, and yet worse to other People.

It might be a Check to this Folly to suggest, or at least to Enquire, whether even the Queen herself can, or has Power to do it; and I may put it thus, I am of the Opinion, in short — That a King or Queen of Britain, cannot Resign, or Demit, or Transfer the Crown in Favour of another; It is true, any Sovereign may Resign, or Abdicate the Crown, Divesting themselves of the Possession, and laying down the Regal Authority; But then, in such a Case, the Parliament of Britain, if the Descent be not already settled by Legal Provisions, has the only Legal Authority to declare the Succession, and give the Inheritance the Sanction of their Limitation — And this I believe I can sustain, by the Laws of the Constitution: But as this is a nice Point, I shall enter no farther upon it at present — As to the foolish Suggestion before nom'd,

I think it only fits a poor sinking Party, who have nothing but such Shifts to Support them, who make Lies their Refuge, and whose Cause would long ago have fallen, if they did not find some such weak Things as these to uphold them.

But even all this may happen, the Thing is possible, as the Prophet Isaib says, a Mother may forget her Child, &c. a Queen MAY forget her Crown, Sovereigns MAY Act against Nature, and People MAY run like Mad-Men upon Precipices; these Things MAY be, for they have been; but that a Parliament, a Body of Men Chosen out of the whole Nation, one of a City, and two of a County; that These when they come together, should in a Legislative and Representative Capacity, give us up to France — This is impossible, no such Thing ever was in Nature, it cannot be, it is Hetrogeneous and contrary to the Nature of the Thing call'd Parliament, Preposterous to suggest, and Ridiculous to fear:

Nor is the Objection of a Tory Parliament in my Sense, sufficient; suppose I should grant for Argument sake, that the Days may come, when we should have such a Thing beset us — Yet in their Parliament Capacity, it could not be, let those that think of it but consider, what must be previous to it — No Parliament, If I have any right into these Things, can do this — They have so many Things to do first — So many previous Questions to put first, that it cannot be so much as suggested, without thinking all Honest Men both within Doors and without, infatuate and asleep; and the People whom they imagin it of, back'd with a Power at Home, able to reduce these three Nations to a subjection to it by immediate Force — I shall go on with this in my next.

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